

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114682

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE HAVE BEEN CHURNING OUT QUANTITIES OF PAPER ON THE ZERO-BASED BUDGETING EXERCISE, SOME OF WHICH WOULD MAKE YOUR HAIR CURL WHEN IT GETS DOWN TO TALKING ABOUT WHAT WE WOULD CUT UNDER AN 85 PERCENT OF CURRENT PROGRAMS LEVEL. BUT WE ARE CONVINCED BY THOSE WHO CLAIM TO KNOW THAT THE USSR IS HIGH ENOUGH ON THE OVERALL PRIORITIES LIST THAT NONE OF WHAT WE SUGGEST (AND ARGUE AGAINST) WILL COME TO PASS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DON'T THINK ITS WORTH WHILE TO BOTHER YOU WITH THE PAPER, BUT IF WE GET ANY INKLING THAT SOMETHING REAL IS ABOUT TO COME OF IT WE'LL GET IN TOUCH. CHRISTOPHER

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